



Fact Sheet:



Co-Occurring Disorders

Background

The Governor's Budget Act of 1995-96 mandated the Departments of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) and Mental Health (DMH) to actively seek methods to eliminate barriers between the substance abuse and mental health treatment systems at both the state and local levels on behalf of persons with the co-occurring disorders of serious mental illness and substance abuse.

ADP and DMH established the State Dual Diagnosis Task Force in 1996. The Task Force developed a Request for Proposal to fund projects to demonstrate effective treatment for persons with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Four demonstration projects were selected in the counties of Contra Costa, Merced, San Diego, and Santa Cruz funded by both departments and continued until 2002 with local funding. A copy of the final evaluation report is available. Please contact ADP's Resource Center at 1-800-879-2772, or download the report from ADP's Web site at <http://www.adp.ca.gov>.

New Workgroup Established

In October 2002, the Directors of ADP and DMH established the Co-Occurring Disorders Workgroup (COD Workgroup) to recommend strategies to improve treatment outcomes for persons with co-occurring disorders. Each Department selected six members. A representative of the California Department of Corrections was also invited to participate as well as representatives

from the Departments of Health Services and Social Services.

The four primary tasks assigned to the COD Workgroup by the ADP and DMH Directors were to:

1. Identify the best/most promising practices from the demonstration projects funded under the State Dual Diagnosis Task Force and other sources for broader dissemination.
2. Identify funding alternatives for extending best practices.
3. Propose potential partnerships to promote coordinated services at the local level.
4. Propose training and technical assistance mechanisms to support local community capacity building.

The COD Workgroup convened monthly meetings for one year and developed a final report with recommendations. The final report was submitted to the Directors of ADP and DMH in February 2004 and is available through ADP's Resource Center or from the ADP Web site.

ADP continues to partner with DMH, the California Institute for Mental Health, the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California, the California Mental Health Directors Association, and the Alcohol and Drug Policy Institute on COD-related policies and services.